

00862.023426

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Kenji MIKAMI)	
	:	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned)	
	:	
Filed: Concurrently herewith)	
	:	
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS,)	January 28, 2004
METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM	:	

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the non-English patent documents and counterpart abstracts are also enclosed.

STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no Statement, Petition, or Fee is

necessitated by the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document No. 2002-166607 is discussed at least at page 3, lines 5 through 14 of the specification.

Japanese Patent Document No. 2002-214862 discloses an apparatus, which determines whether a main content of each page is text or graphics. A toner reduction function is turned on if the main content of a page is text, whereas the toner reduction function is turned off if the main content of a page is graphics. In this way, the toner reduction function is switched for every page.

Japanese Patent Document No. 2003-076097 discloses an apparatus, which identifies characters/graphics/images by commands. In the apparatus, a rendering attribute is prepared in accordance with a kind of graphic data. Toner reduction is performed in accordance with the attribute while a look-up table for color conversion based upon a toner saving level is automatically switched according to a line width, an area of a dot, and a size of a character in each graphic.

Japanese Patent Document Nos. 2002-219867 and 2003-076097 fail to disclose a processing unit, which performs a reduction processing for controlling an amount of colorants for a thin line of a graphic in case of a graphic object and a selection by a user for selecting whether the reduction processing is performed or not.

In addition, Japanese Patent Document Nos. 2002-219867 and 2003-076097 fail to disclose that an amount of colorants corresponding to objects can be directed by a user.

The present invention can correct toner scattering for a thin line of a graphic in accordance with a user preference by setting the toner reduction function for a thin line being turned on or turned off by a user.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003-0043392 A1 corresponds to Japanese Patent Document No. 2003-076097.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wannisky', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Submitted to the PTO: January 28, 2004			ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023426		APPLICATION NO. Unassigned		
			APPLICANT K nji MIKAMI				
			FILING DATE Concurr ntly her with			GROUP Unassigned	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	2003/0043392 A1	03/06/03	Sugimoto	358	1.9		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT		
2002-166602	06/11/02	Japan			Abstract		
2002-214862	07/31/02	Japan			Abstract		
2003-76097	03/14/03	Japan			No		

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.